

A visitor viewing the farms and enjoying the hospitality of the long established homes can not but be encouraged as to the future of the valley that to many of us is the "Valley of Yesterday." We, having established contacts in other places that death alone can break. The sentiment quietly expressed by John D. McEwen at the last Home-Coming find an echo in the hearts of prodigals who in years to come will make the Annual Pilgrimage to the Mecca of their youth.

"If I could find employment to support my home here I would move back to-morrow, for there is no place in the world I would rather live."

Had the dreamer in his pleasant excursions into the "Valley of Dreams and Memories" the gift of fore-sight in proportion to his gift of memory, surely a rosy future would be portrayed, but, judging the sons by their sires and the future by the past, the eyes of faith sees beyond the vale and finds the eternal mountains singing their sagas of strength and independence to generations yet unborn and the kindly sky smiling upon homes of plenty and contentment when the present dwellers of the Valley shall be numbered with the traditions we have attempted to preserve.

#### LODGES AND SOCIETIES

By

Paul Galough

Hillsgrove's first and permanent fraternal society was the Odd Fellows, active in providing better things in the village since its inception in September 1884 and still carrying forward the eternal principles of friendship, love and truth.

Many girls and boys were thrilled on Memorial Day when the Lodge in full regalia would take an honored place, in the line of march, just behind the Grand Army of the Republic. There was Lyman Speaker, Walt Hoffman, Henry Hultzhower, Dan Graffius and Henry Barrett, resplendent in swords and purple plumes of the patriarchs, militant with past grands wearing the dignity and honors of their rank and following them were the officers and members to the number of eighty. The

mustached and bearded faces expressing the serious and solemn mien the occasion demanded. No kid ever looked upon this impressive sight without cherishing an ambition that when he was twenty-one he would "ride the goat" and most of us saw our fond hope in this particular realized.

The world is closed to the meetings of Odd Fellows and aside from giving them every respect and honor they have so richly won we will not seek to pierce the veil. May the good work they have accomplished in secret, go on and He, who sees in secret reward them openly.

Next in importance was the Patriotic Order Sons of America, active and prosperous for ten years. They lived up to their precepts, patriotism, education, fraternity, and the fun branch of the order, the Arabian Degree Klan produced many good natured laughs and created amusing situations that cause those who took part in them to smile even at this late day.

The Maccabees and various other insurance organizations flourished for a time but their roots never sunk deep into the life of the community.

The Grand Army of the Republic had their Post room at Forksville and held Memorial Day services on alternate years in these communities. There are none of the members left in either town and in my young manhood, old Hillsgrove gave thirty young men to the army in the years from 1861 to 1865. Those who used to march on Memorial Day in my time were:

Richard McBride	Ezra Little
Wm. Brong	Steve Vroman
Dan Graffius	T. C. Good
Sam Bailey	Peter Vroman
Henry Brown	Wm. P. McBride
Ben Bryan	Horace Greene
Geo. Parker	Bill Boyles

John Hoppis

#### RELICS

By John A. Speaker

Every family in Hillsgrove, as elsewhere, have their antiques and their relics together with their family trees and their skeletons in dark closets, of the last mentioned let us "let the dead past bury its dead" and the living present, respect and honor these mementos of the past that tell their pleasant tale in the recollection.